

Community Assessment Report

May 22, 1993

Prepared by the City of Berkeley Planning Department Gil Kelley, Planning Director Karen Haney–Owens, Project Manager

Report written by:

Maureen Gatt, Associate Mgmt. Analyst
Laura Lafler, Associate Planner

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY

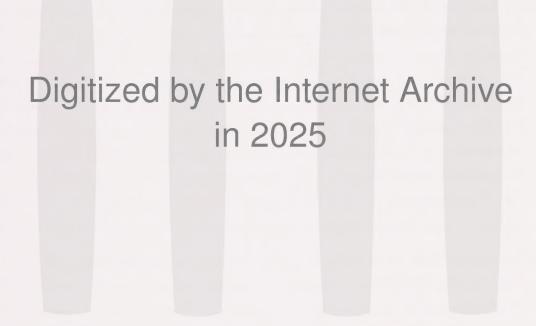
OCT 1 1997

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Table of Contents

Introduction	
Section 1: Summary and Conclusions	1
Section 2: Community Assessment Results	6
The City's Physical Form	6
Transportation	6
Infrastructure/Appearance	7
Socio-Economic Health	7
Economic Development	8
Housing	8
Safety/Crime	10
Health/Well-Being	10
Families/Children/Youth	11
Education	12
Economic Development	13
City Administration	14
Change	17
Environmental Quality	17
Disaster Preparedness	17
Environment	17
Regional Links	18
Regional Relations	
University Relations	18
General Plan	
Section 3: Interview and Mailing Lists, Questionnaire	21



https://archive.org/details/C124919908

Introduction

The General Plan update is under way. The General Plan is a policy document intended to facilitate the community's efforts to plan for and control its physical, social, economic, and environmental future, and designed to guide the City in realizing its vision for the next ten to fifteen years. This report, together with two initial community workshops to be held in May and June of 1993, will contribute to the development of a *Concept Plan*, which will be published in the fall of 1993. The community assessment process, the workshops, and the baseline information in the *Conditions, Trends, and Issues* report (to be published in June of 1993), are all part of an information gathering effort which constitutes the first phase of the general plan update effort. Subsequent phases will detail out the Concept Plan and conduct an environmental assessment. There will be opportunities for further public consultation and involvement in those phases.

Planning Department staff designed the community assessment process during the fall of 1992 in consultation with a General Plan sub-committee of the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Council, Planning Commission, and Mayor intentionally targeted City boards and commissions, social services providers and issue-oriented community groups, recognizing that most of these organizations serve large numbers of people who are not generally well-represented in planning processes. Other residents, neighborhood groups, and civic organizations are also represented here and will have further opportunities to participate in the General Plan update through the Public Participation process, including workshops and public hearings. This report begins to document the diversity of opinions on significant issues facing the City.

The community assessment process contains an interview element and a questionnaire element, conducted between November, 1992, and March, 1993. Laura Lafler, planning consultant, interviewed representatives of 77 organizations and 11 City boards and commissions. Time was the ultimate constraint on the number of groups interviewed. Following a brief discussion of the focus of each group and its major accomplishments, all interviews addressed the following questions:

What are the most pressing issues facing the City? What would you like to see happen?

Maureen Gatt, Planning Department staffperson, compiled and analyzed the questionnaire results. Of the 680 questionnaires sent out, 203 were completed; this is a return rate of about 30%. The questionnaire was sent to all members of City boards and commissions, neighborhood groups, merchant groups, and civic organizations. The questionnaire was used because all organizations could not be interviewed. Lists of those who were interviewed and of those who received a questionnaire are in Section 3 of this report. The questionnaire posed a series of questions which were not pursued in the interviews. Respondents were asked the following additional questions:

- list the assets and liabilities of Berkeley;
- state their vision for the future of Berkeley;

- identify the role of local government in handling social and environmental issues; and,
- prioritize a given list of issues under the following three broad categories:
 - Facilities/Services;
 - Environmental; and,
 - Social/Economic.

The results of both the interviews and the questionnaire showed that virtually everyone agrees on the basic issues facing Berkeley; the opinions, however, regarding the issues were extremely varied. Part of the General Plan process will be to facilitate the community's effort to find some common ground—or grounds for compromise—within the issue categories, from which a future vision can be derived. The issues presented briefly in Section 1 and in detail in Section 2 have been arranged in an order that complements the presentation of the baseline information in the *Conditions, Trends, and Issues* report; both documents can be easily referenced in an issue-focused discussion.

The following discussion is a report on what respondents said in the interviews and wrote on the questionnaire. The notes from the interviews can be found in the *Community Assessment Appendix*, a separate document. There are people on both sides of each issue, and their perceptions and opinions are represented here. The objective of categorizing the issues is to organize the Community Assessment results in a manner most useful as a tool for the remainder of the public participation process; in reality, the issues are all intertwined and it may be helpful to think of them as parts of a whole.

This report represents voices of our community. We would like to thank the hundreds of individuals who contributed their time and energy by participating in interviews and filling out the questionnaire. We appreciate their opinions, their honesty, and most of all the fact that they care enough about the future of Berkeley to participate in this community outreach effort.

Section I: Summary and Conclusions

Summary

Perceptions of Berkeley: Strengths and Weaknesses

The questionnaire asked people to list Berkeley's strengths and weaknesses (assets and liabilities). The location and climate were consistently listed as assets. Parks, thriving neighborhood retail areas, diversity, the University of California, the City's commitment to social services and social justice, and the many opportunities provided for citizen participation in government processes were also listed as strengths. The University, the large range of social services, and City government, all listed as assets, also showed up as liabilities. In addition, lack of community spirit, high taxes, political polarization, schools and lack of programs for children/families, the need for economic stimulus, crime, transportation problems, maintenance of infrastructure, and insularity from the region were cited as weaknesses.

The Most Pressing Issues

Questionnaire respondents were given an opportunity to prioritize issues in three areas; the results showed one very strong priority in each area. The three priority issues are:

- Condition of Public Schools;
- Improving the Transportation System; and,
- Access to Educational Opportunities.

In the Facilities/Services area, the condition of the public schools were the number one priority. This includes the general state of the public schools system, the facilities and program planning, the school infrastructure, class size, and availability and accessibility of different programs within the schools. In the Environmental area, improving the transportation system was the number one priority. This includes the public transportation system and could indicate concerns about accessibility, affordability, safety, and the level of pollutants generated. It could also indicate a desire for more efficient traffic flow. In the Social/Economic area, access to educational opportunities was the number one priority. This includes the general level and availability of education for the citizens at large (still including children) and the accompanying social and economic implications. These are all interagency issues, and will need to be addressed collaboratively.

Both the questionnaire and the interviews asked people what they think are the most pressing issues facing Berkeley today. The issue topic of *Transportation* elicited responses primarily about the accessibility, safety, and affordability of public transportation. Also mentioned were effectively limiting the use of and pollution from the auto, addressing specific neighborhood and other traffic problems, improving bike routes, and either greatly reducing or increasing the availability of parking.

The remarks about *Infrastructure/Appearance* were more consistent. There was almost universal agreement on the need for better and more timely maintenance, and for cleaner streets and sidewalks. Often associated with infrastructure issues is the issue of priorities in spending (infrastructure vs. social services).

Although not cited as one of the three priority issues, *Housing* is the most controversial issues raised in the Community Assessment process and may pose the greatest challenge in achieving some common ground for policy development. Affordable housing—how much we should have, where it should go, and who should foot the bill are big issues. Rent control—whether the effect has been positive or negative, whether it should be strengthened or abolished, and how to resolve the current rent control stand-off within the City are also of concern. Other significant points raised included "gentrification" of the City's housing, blue collar flight, displaced tenants, and loans/other assistance for homeowners. Underlying these issues is how each of us values socio-economic diversity; assessing the strength of this value is the essential element in determining how we can proceed with making a coherent and meaningful housing policy.

The issue most frequently mentioned was *City Administration*. There is a sense of displeasure at how the City is being run—a suspicion of too many, too highly paid employees who essentially serve to promote bureaucratic red tape. There is a consequent call for greater accountability; streamlining; emphasis on product delivery rather than ideology, politics, or empire building. There were a few positive comments about City administration, especially from those who appreciate the City's progressive reputation and the large number of opportunities to participate in City processes. The City's recent planning efforts were applicated, although there was concern about whether these would be implemented.

Two other issue topics also elicited a large and varied response: *Health/Well-Being*, and *Education*. Health and well-being concerns expressed included lack of accessibility to and affordability of a whole range of physical and mental health care, lack of education programs, the growing sense of ethnic/racial tension, the lack of community spirit and polarization of the community (hills vs. flatlands, etc.). There is an increasing need for emergency services—more and more people are falling out of the "social net". Other people felt that social services are an option—after the City pays for more basic services, like maintenance of infrastructure, adequate disaster preparedness, and public school education. Everyone thought the issue of homelessness needs to be dealt with—some by eliminating social services, some by increasing social services, some by cooperation with other local governments and lobbying of state and federal governments for more assistance.

The public schools are generally perceived as declining. The facilities are seen as deteriorating and the quality of education is diminishing. Teachers are inadequately compensated and class sizes are too large. There are gangs and violence and a lack of discipline. Many who can afford it send their children to private schools, resulting in a large degree of economic and racial segregation. Family poverty, lack of parental involvement, and cultural barriers contribute to the problems in this area.

The issue topic of *Economic Development* elicited comments that decries the perceived "anti-business climate" of Berkeley. Problems cited include high taxes, too much bureaucratic red tape, generally run down business areas, panhandlers, lack of parking, and lack of support and understanding from City Hall. In these hard economic times there is a clear call for support from City administration, for focused job development and retention efforts, and for clear, results-oriented policies to build a healthy economy in Berkeley.

Both the merchants and the citizens at large are concerned about the issue topic of *Safety/Crime*. There is a heightened feeling that it is not safe to go out, that violent and random crime are widespread, that panhandlers are too aggressive, and that there has been an increase in drug-

related crime and civil unrest. Some feel a solution lies in an increased police presence; some, in a decreased police presence coupled with targeting money and effort on root causes.

People perceive change in their neighborhoods as a threat. There appears to be a lot of resistance to discussing vision and policy creation because of the fear that the resident's quality of life will diminish as a result.

Under the issue topic of *Disaster Preparedness*, people raised concerns for the City's state of disaster preparedness, and for City efforts to provide education and emergency communication.

Regarding the issue topic of *Environment*, people consistently express concern for regulating and preventing pollution. A litter-free city, well-maintained public open space, and effective plans for increasing open space and creating "greenways" are also frequently mentioned. There is a smaller but still popular voice that would like to see more of the creeks that run through Berkeley uncovered.

The University of California—issue topic *City/UC Relations*—was frequently cited in both positive and negative comments. The principal issues are controlling University growth, and getting the University to "pay its way". Underlying all of the concerns raised regarding the University is the acknowledgement of the need for the City and the University to overcome their antagonism and learn to work together to solve mutual problems and better use resources.

Similarly, the City's relationships with other governments and agencies in the region, under the issue topic *Regional Relations*, were cited as needing improvement and a cooperative focus. A regional response to social and environmental issues is felt to be the best way to maximize limited resources and eliminate costly redundancies. The dynamic nature of the greater Bay Area demands a recognition that we are a small part of a greater whole and need to plan accordingly in order to maintain the integrity of our community and effectively address problems that are larger than our City boundaries.

There was predictably a mix of opinion regarding the effort to update the City's General Plan. Some people thought that most of the above-mentioned topics have no place whatsoever in the General Plan—we should stick to physical planning and land use issues. Others, however, thought that discussion and inclusion of these issues in the General Plan is timely and appropriate. There was a call to focus our efforts—if we try to do too much, nothing will be done well. Past plans are well-respected, but people noted that the plans have not always been implemented; people expressed hope that the new General Plan would have measurable milestones for accomplishments. There were also some general comments on the fact that most of these issues are inter-related and that it is misleading to attempt to consider one issue without considering it in the context of all the others.

Vision for the Future

The questionnaire asked people for their vision for Berkeley in ten to fifteen years. The responses were generally very positive and indicate to some extent the issues that people would like to see resolved in the foreseeable future. Most of the responses for the vision for the future were scenarios that would eliminate or mitigate the issues people are concerned about. Vastly improved and efficient delivery of City services; concern for finding solutions to the major so-

cial ills facing us today; and cooperative and collaborative relationships among the University, the City and private businesses were strong themes. Among those who wish to see local government involved in social and environmental issues, the majority perceive an active role, as provider of services, as a regulator and enforcer, and as agent in achieving cooperative regional solutions.

In visioning, some people presented scenarios that contain seemingly conflicting goals; for instance, to lower the tax burden and increase City services. These conflicts need to be addressed in the General Plan process. In the face of the significant issues facing the City right now, it is very encouraging to note people's expressions of hope for the future and the creativity of the ideas presented.

Role of Local Government

Respondents to the questionnaire also addressed what they thought local government's role should be in addressing social and environmental problems. There was a wide range of opinion, especially on addressing social issues. Apart from the individuals who believe social issues should not be a concern of local government, many people called for regional solutions, for creativity in maximizing resources, for flexibility, and for joint public/private responses. Many people wanted government to take more responsibility for children, young adults, and families by providing better schools, recreation and jobs programs, subsidized childcare, and family support services. Some mention was also made of creative financing for these programs, for instance by enhancing the economic base, or implementing some new taxes. Regarding the role of local government in addressing environmental issues, people suggested regulations with "teeth in them" for businesses, but implemented with an attitude that would help solve the problems without running businesses out of town. Also mentioned were education programs; effective policy development; recycling; encouraging environmentally sustain-

Additionally, people made comments that described the role of local government in a general way. People called for a balance with respect to economic growth and social and health needs. Concern was voiced for only taking on what we can afford, for conducting cost/benefit analyses, for eliminating barriers to change, for less political concern and more emphasis on practical solutions. People felt that City government should provide more leadership and collaboration in all areas.

able lifestyles, businesses, and transportation; and ensuring that public space is well-main-

Conclusions

One of the positive aspects of any planning process is that it tends to raise hope and provide a forum for community discussion. The fact that people have put forth all of these issues—positive and negative—is hopeful, and points to a genuine desire to overcome our problems and move on to a better quality of life for all.

Several themes or values were consistently raised in expressing concerns and ideas. Among these are:

- diversity;
- social and fiscal responsibility;

tained, attractive, user-friendly, and safe.

- cooperation and collaboration; and,
- responsiveness and accountability.

Ever greater diversity—of culture, socio-economic status, architecture, natural environment, and politics—seems to be a hallmark of our times and of our City. City government needs to take the presence of diversity into account in formulating policies and implementation strategies.

The most controversial issues raised in this community assessment are:

- housing;
- transportation policy; and,
- provision of social services.

The issue most widely commented on is City Administration. The greatest consensus is on the following issues:

- Infrastructure:
- Education;
- Safety/Crime;
- Economic Development; and,
- Regional Response.

Addressing any of these issues will require careful dialogue and a skilled balancing of needs and resources. Striking a balance results in tension—and requires constantly assessing and reassessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of our endeavors.

Berkeley faces many social, economic, and environmental problems that are larger than Berkeley, larger than California, and very sobering. Many of these problems are in fact the backdrop of people's comments and necessarily underlie any discussion of where we go from here. These issues are part of our common ground, as is the hope people expressed for the future.

Section 2 —Community Assessment Results

The City's Physical Form/Transportation

This broad category contains one of the more controversial issues: transportation. The common ground is the need to improve public transportation. Beyond that, there is little agreement on what the City should and can do regarding alternative modes of transportation and encouraging or discouraging use of the automobile.

Transportation

The concerns about transportation are specific. Under the issue of transportation are three main issues:

- the accessibility, affordability, and safety of public transportation;
- auto vs. pedestrian amenities; and,
- housing and jobs as related to transportation.

People commented on the undergrounding of BART, ease of access to transportation, and access to the Bay Area as assets of Berkeley. The liabilities included lack of good transportation planning, traffic congestion problems, too much auto dependence, and not enough parking. When asked to prioritize issues in the general area of "Environmental Issues", improving the transportation system was the first priority of the majority of respondents. This concern acknowledges the interdependence of systems. A more affordable, more accessible, safer transportation system will have a positive effect on environmental quality and on the health and well-being of our community. Currently, public transportation does not service all areas, and some areas have only limited service. People are concerned for their personal safety on public transportation—busses and BART. There is a need for more paratransit and coordination among the various transit systems. Some people think that public transit should also use more efficient vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles. Light rail vehicles were mentioned specifically, especially on San Pablo Avenue, University Avenue, or through South Berkeley. People also are concerned about what the City is going to do with the air rights above BART.

Unlike the relative consensus on public transportation, there is division on where to head with auto and pedestrian amenities. There are two basic points of view expressed: those who want to see many more auto amenities and those who would like to see many more pedestrian and non-auto transport amenities. Those who favor a more auto-friendly City want more parking, meters that last longer periods of time, and elimination of street bumps and barriers.

The people who want more pedestrian and non-automobile amenities mention better bike trails, streets closed to auto traffic, traffic lanes designated for public transit and high occupancy vehicles (HOV) only, and a removal of the "auto subsidy". The auto subsidy is the money paid by all citizens in the forms of sales tax, fees, assessments, and property taxes that supports auto amenities and the lower than market rate or free parking that is routinely available throughout the City. Other specific concerns include auto pollution, the Interstate 80 widening project, and more carpooling and commute alternatives.

For those who included the issue of transportation in their vision for the future, they included many ideas for restricting automobile use and providing alternative modes of transportation for all: free transit within the city, a system of shuttles connecting all areas from a transportation hub at 4th and University, and deterrence of through traffic from areas outside the City. Higher density housing on and near major transit corridors was also cited by some respondents. Encouraging higher density, in-fill housing, and mixed use development would make it possible for more people to walk to work or to other destinations, thereby reducing the need for auto or other transit use. Local government involvement in transportation issues by providing safer, more frequent, inexpensive public transit, and in encouraging pedestrians is of concern to some people.

Infrastructure/Appearance

There is concurrence on the need for extensive infrastructure repair, including increased efforts to maintain cleaner streets, sidewalks, and buildings; and to provide ongoing repair of streets, sewers, sidewalks, parks, and public buildings. Some areas need more street trees; for instance, Ashby Avenue. Other street trees are inappropriate because of bugs or tree litter. Street trees need to be well-maintained. Other concerns include the need for more trash cans, more beautification efforts, and better street lighting.

While acknowledging a need for infrastructure repair, people affirm many other aspects of Berkeley's appearance as great strengths: the location, climate, natural and architectural diversity, and access to open space. For the future, people would like to see the infrastructure of our City under a regular maintenance program; well-maintained parks, open spaces, and buildings; and no graffiti or trash. Most respondents believe that local government should have these basic needs as a priority in spending and effort.

Density of Development

This issue arose exclusively in relation to housing and, to a lesser extent, transportation; therefore, density is discussed in this report under those issue categories.

Socio-Economic Health

This broad category contains the greatest number of issue categories in the Community Assessment as well as the most controversial issues and the issues most frequently cited. The most controversial issue raised in the Community Assessment is housing. Perhaps the only way to approach something this volatile and divisive will be to step back from the specific issue and look at the motivation—what prompts us to have affordable housing and rent control and are those reasons still valid for our City today? When the motivation and its priority for our community is clear, perhaps it will be easier to frame policy.

The issue raised most often is City administration. This category includes comments on politics, how the City is run, public participation processes, specific City programs, and fiscal responsibility. There is a lot of criticism and a lot of conflicting remarks. There is a general distrust of the local government, in spite of some positive comments on City processes.

Respondents were very concerned about education in general and Berkeley's public schools in particular. In this area there is little conflict; most respondents want to see significant improve-

ments in the City's public school system. Part of the concern in this area has to do with support systems for families (primarily addressed under the issue topic Families/Children/Youths), poverty, cultural barriers, and with the failure of the school system to address these problems. Further concerns are the general quality of education including breadth of academic exposure, the issue of discipline, and the problems of class size and lack of financial and, consequently, educational resources.

Economic Development and Crime (Personal Safety) were not controversial, but need to be mentioned as significant underpinnings to respondents' outlooks. The feeling of being in an economic slump and the sense of limitation that imposes colored many comments on other topics. The fear of crime affects people's perceptions of our community well-being and general sense of community.

Respondents made some general comments about the role of local government in addressing social issues. Most of the suggestions involved more cooperation and collaboration than people perceive is currently being practiced. The City could bring together groups of programs (run by community organizations), consolidating them into coalitions such as health, housing, childcare, youth programs, etc., in order to reduce overhead and administrative costs and enhance services. With funding from the City, corporations, the University, and grants, the City could design policies which tie social programming to immediate community needs and long-term community goals, allowing a collective provision of the best services to empower our community. Some people would like to see the City focus its efforts on the root causes of social ills rather than providing remedial services. Regardless of respondents' perception of the role of local government in addressing social issues, they would like to see more "quality control"—a pragmatic, efficient, and cost-effective approach to problems.

Housing

Housing is the most controversial and divisive issue facing Berkeley today. There are three basic issues:

- affordable housing;
- rent control; and,
- density.

Other perceived problems include gentrification, the difficulties for first-time homebuyers, and the lack of turnover in rental housing. There are many people on either side of all of these issues.

The cost of housing is an extreme hardship for some Berkeley citizens. Waiting lists for public housing are years long, Section 8 housing is not readily available, and there are many moderate-income individuals and families who do not qualify for assistance and cannot afford the full cost. Many of the community providers of social services cannot afford to live in Berkeley. Some people perceive a lack of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals, for seniors, and for disabled. Issues around how to provide affordable housing were also addressed; for instance, whether the City should purchase units or simply help renovate targeted units owned and managed privately.

People who support affordable housing would like to see more of it, and more innovation in how it is established. Smaller, scattered site units; in-fill development; sweat equity; and other ideas were put forth by respondents. Large and very large housing developments can have a negative impact on a neighborhood, especially if it is an exclusively low-income development. Respondents would like to see mixed income, intergenerational housing developments built to facilitate some level of community life.

Other people believe that "affordable housing" is a misnomer. Housing is always market price—"affordable" housing simply has someone other than the occupant picking up the tab. These people believe that the money collected by the City from the citizens would be best used for other purposes, especially basic City services. If there is to be "affordable" housing, it should be fostered by private developers.

Housing policies need to be re-examined. Some people question the appropriateness of the assumption that Berkeley should be financially accessible to anyone who wants to live here. Others hope that a housing policy can be devised that will help overcome the fear people have of a low- or mixed-income development in their neighborhood. Very few developers are willing to take on the risks and expense of getting in-fill and other much-needed developments approved. The City needs to find a model to work with the University in creating housing projects that work in today's world. The old models are inadequate. The City should provide permanent shelters for the homeless; the transitional places are inadequate and do not address the real need.

Some people blame rent control for the lack of housing and for the high taxes property owners pay. Rent control is also noted as a primary means of achieving some measure of socio-economic diversity. Under rent control, some people feel that property owners are treated unfairly. Others believe that tenants, even with the help of rent control, often can barely afford the rent, get minimal support in disputes with landlords, and were really hurt by the Searle increase. Also, the number of rental units on the market has steadily decreased in the last several years. Some people who support rent control are concerned about the quality of rental units; some landlords use rent control as an excuse not to keep the units well-maintained. Evictions are up, and the Rent Board has a huge backlog of cases. Some people feel that the Rent Board's effectiveness has been diminished by the current pro-landlord majority. Others feel that rent control has hampered the normal turnover in rental units, and does not allow for buildings to be adequately maintained.

Some people would like to see higher density developments and infill housing. Higher density and mixed use developments were mentioned primarily in connection with transit corridors, but there are a few people who want higher density clusters throughout the City. Others do not want to see any additional high density residential projects.

For the future, ideas include city-supported community housing groups; infill housing in order to encourage more middle-income residents and not just poor and wealthy; remedies for problem housing projects; many more group living, extended family, intergenerational, mixed income, village cluster or urban cooperative blocks; secure, appropriate and accessible housing with stabilized costs for both Cal students and other residents; and no rent control. City government should have a housing program that conserves and improves the existing housing stock while increasing the available supply where appropriate. People believe shelter is a basic human need that requires support from every level of government. The City should promote

the acquisition of rental or permanent housing for those most in need of it, and should have loans and programs to help homeowners.

Safety/Crime

Fear for personal safety is cause for increasing concern. Violent crime, gangs, drug-related crime, crack houses, and hate crime are all issues. People do not feel safe in their neighborhoods, on public transportation, going out at night, or simply in going about town running errands. People fear for the safety of their children in the schools, parks, and playgrounds. The disabled, women, and children are particularly vulnerable. The presence of drug dealers, crack houses, and other forms of illicit activity are disconcerting to residents and leave people fearing for the safety of their persons and their property. The fear of civil unrest keeps people away from certain areas, especially Telegraph Avenue/People's Park.

It seems there are two basic points of view in reaction to criminal activity and concern for personal safety: those who would like to see more police, better lighting, escort services, riot prevention and control, and tougher enforcement of laws and those who look for more rehabilitation programs and more effort to identify and resolve root causes of criminal activity. From whichever side of the issue, people look to the future for a time when they will not be afraid to walk out after dark or allow their children play outside unsupervised.

Health/Well-Being

There are two general priorities in this area:

- · concern for community well-being; and,
- concern for those who are in a state of neediness.

People express concern over racial tensions and the increasing disparity between the wealthy and the poor. The City is divided—North and South, hills and flatlands. Many people envision a safe, attractive community with integrated neighborhoods as well as more after school programs, neighborhood groups, mentoring programs, etc., that promote mutual responsibility, interdependency, and support. People would like to see a Berkeley that is diverse and wonderful to live in, where the disabled, ethnic, and religious minorities and gay and lesbian people fully participate in community life, and mediation of disputes is an accepted way of life.

City support for a greater sense of community well-being was also raised by some respondents. These people want to feel that the City supports its diverse population in its many neighborhood subcultures and that people's differences are respected and people's economic and social well-being are of common concern, including decent housing and access to services for all. Most respondents hope for a neighborhood-based city with jobs, services, and cultural activity within walking or easy public transit distance; an ecologically-sound environment with a focus on multi-cultural, ethnic, economic, and lifestyle diversity among its population; a City where every citizen is involved in the life of the community; and a City that is a community in the truest sense of the word.

The concern for those in need covers the whole range of social services, the providers, and the people they serve. The providers of social services are often low-paid and lack adequate health and other benefits. Providers need stable funding sources and need to develop cooperative rela-

tionships among themselves and with other resource people to provide more cost-effective service and to foster creative resource sharing.

Those who are concerned about the provision of social services target drug and alcohol abuse; the need for mental, psychological, and physical health care; homelessness; the growing elderly population; and the needs of the disabled as areas where assistance is needed. Some social service providers believe that the City needs to plan how it will address the growing AIDS epidemic; the increase in TB patients, many of whom are homeless and have contracted an antibiotic-resistant strain; and the increase in economic stress, with the consequent demand on mental health services. "Dual diagnosis"—clients who have drug or alcohol abuse problems as well as mental or psychological problems—requires facilities and resources and is needed to deal effectively with today's client population.

There are some people who would have the social services (for the needy) eliminated, would ban panhandling, and eliminate the Berkeley Cares program. Others would like to see a completely comprehensive social service program. Most respondents, however, fall somewhere between the two extremes and would like to see after school programs, outreach to the elderly, active consideration of the needs of the minority communities, family support programs, subsidized childcare, mental health centers for those who need them, drug rehabilitation programs, life skills programs, a positive resolution of the homeless problem, and better access to health care for anyone who needs it.

A primary problem in delivering services to those who are homeless or have drug, alcohol, and/or mental problems is finding a site. People are very suspicious and antagonistic of a project they perceive as threatening to the stability and security of their neighborhood. The need, however, for such services is growing and the funds and service centers are dwindling.

Most respondents would like to see the City government take a stronger leadership role in assuring basic social services for those in need, coupled with focused efforts to help the people who are able to become independent, functioning members of society. Some call for local government to assure health care and housing as basic human rights; to facilitate the presence of economic, racial, and cultural diversity in our City; to keep these issues in front of the state and federal governments; and to do all in its power to foster the general well-being of the complex environmental/social system we live in.

Families/Children/Youths

Many people expressed concern for the financial burden on families, for the future our children face, and for the lack of guidance on many levels for young people to move into being productive, educated members of society. Care of and programs for children from infancy through young adulthood were mentioned by many respondents. A variety of concerns were raised, including the need for more family support services, subsidized childcare, and parenting skills courses. Complications around legal guardianship and eligibility for existing programs need to be addressed. Ideas for supporting youth in their transition to independent adulthood included job training and life skills courses, more recreation programs, and mentoring programs.

People perceive a need for additional constructive opportunities for children after school. There are not adequate recreation opportunities close to home. There is especially little available for the developmentally disabled and no mechanism for integrating disabled children and young

adults into the community. Children fear the future; the City should focus significant efforts on identifying and addressing the needs of children.

The primary issues for senior citizens are the need for comprehensive medical care, the need for education and support in dealing with dementia, and the need to foster physical and financial independence. Some feel there need to be more opportunities for seniors to get out of the home—senior centers should be open more hours and especially on weekends and holidays. Night events are difficult because of concern for personal safety in coming and going from the event. Senior programs need funds to expand focus—draw in children that need tutoring, etc. Also for seniors, elder abuse—especially financial abuse and physical negligence—is a growing issue. There is little recourse available for the individual person; more resources need to be made available and more education and other efforts provided that might help prevent the problem.

People want a city where there is greater value placed on families and on being a parent, where families are not split up because of poverty, where children will grow up with the self-esteem necessary to carry them through life, and where senior citizens are encouraged to live a full and satisfying life.

Education

Most respondents are very concerned about education and the state of the public schools in Berkeley. Many listed public schools, deteriorating school facilities, private school flight, segregation, large class sizes, lack of discipline, underpaid teachers, violence, the tracking of noncollege prep students, and the lack of arts programs as liabilities for the City of Berkeley. People also expressed concern that the 1994 school voucher issue could dramatically worsen the already deteriorating situation. Other issues included the tracking system in Berkeley schools and its perceived racist implementation; and bussing and its negative impact on neighborhood community building.

A good education and a concerted effort for parental involvement can make all the difference in a child's ability to develop and use his or her potential. The majority of respondents would like to see in our future a much improved school system, which would help retain families in Berkeley; a concerted effort to push the state government for more funding; more involvement of community organizations in the schools; a safe school environment; and elimination of family poverty which so affects a child's ability in school. A streamlined school district bureaucracy and a number one priority of providing state of the art education are also of interest to respondents.

Ideas for facilities and programming include redesigned school sites with small, ground level cottages with plenty of attractive, safe, open space and top notch teachers; greater numbers of park and playground personnel, with art, music, drama, and dance, as well as sports activities; elimination of the discrepancy in skill areas between white and non-white children; and supportive services and programs outside of school. Some would also like to see a community college built in Berkeley which would serve youth as well as senior citizens.

Education and schools were two of the primary issues that were identified by respondents in prioritizing issues under the general categories on the questionnaire of "Facilities/Services" and "Social/Economic". It is clear that education and specifically the state of public education and

its facilities in the City are of large general concern. These concerns are the result of years of gradual change and will not be remedied overnight. The School District, the City, and the State are all under severe financial constraints, and it will take a lot of creative effort to address these problems. This is an opportunity for a collaborative process among the District, the community and City government.

Many stated that the City and the School District need to coordinate their efforts regarding children. There is divisiveness, mistrust, and duplication of efforts. Coordination mechanisms need to be institutionalized in both the City and the District offices. Resources need to be coordinated; joint use of facilities should be explored. Measure A will help tremendously to improve the facilities of the School District, but has raised other issues, including transition facilities, program planning for new facilities, grade configuration, and two-way bussing.

Economic Development

Given the reality of economic hard times, there are many concerns for job creation, job retention, and an overall policy to revitalize Berkeley's economy. Some cite the thriving local retail areas, the tradition of entrepreneurship, and the economic mix in West Berkeley as strengths. Rundown commercial strips, the lack of incentives for businesses to locate here, the lack of design guidelines, the lack of industrial development, the dwindling traditional business base, and excessively high taxes are noted as liabilities. Respondents would like to see more middle-income jobs, more job creation and training for youth and the unemployed, an enhanced tax base (by bringing in more businessess), the addition of a large conference center and related facilities, development of new revenue sources, and a coherent and realistic new Economic Development Plan.

Merchants feel that they are among the largest financial supporters of the City's social service agenda, and yet must also take the antagonism of pro-social service, anti-business citizens. Merchants feel that many people who want more social services are not interested in seeing more businesses; some people do not understand that businesses generate revenues for social service provision, among other City services. Merchants would like to have some recognition for their part in supporting the City's efforts or at least not have to fight anti-business attitudes.

The need for job development and job training is growing. Many people need work—jobs with some security, benefits, and a living wage. The job availability is not growing and existing programs are not as effective as they need to be in these difficult economic times. Many providers charged with job training and employment find themselves focusing on the survival issues of their clients because people are in desparate need of health care, shelter, clothing, and food. There needs to be much more coordination among providers—it would help if they were not all competing for the same funds. The largest employers to locate in Berkeley in the past few years do not pay much above minimum wage. The problems people face as they are unemployed are getting more severe. Job training and follow through with a client after placement is critical to a successful, long-term employment relationship.

The City needs to provide incentives to small businesses. The Zoning Ordinance is too restrictive in limiting the kinds of businesses in an area. Good businesses get turned away, like Just Desserts on College Avenue. Hurdles for establishing businesses need to be reduced, the City needs to provide some positive reinforcement to businesses for locating here and building the tax base. Loans and programs that are available to business owners need to be better publicized.

Respondents state that taxes in Berkeley are a heavy burden both for business people and for property owners. This is argued to make housing unaffordable for many in Berkeley and is a disincentive for businesses. Also, West Berkeley provides much revenue to the City but seems to be a low priority in City spending.

Traffic in neighborhood retail areas can be a problem; antagonism between residents and merchants develops. Panhandlers also are a problem for merchants and residents; panhandlers scare away potential customers. If people do not feel comfortable in an area, they will get in their cars and go somewhere else. Most neighborhood commercial areas are believed to rely primarily on local customers for their business.

Although there were many differing aspects to people's vision for the future, most agree the future needs to hold more cooperative endeavors: a true partnership among government, the University, the private sector, community groups and local institutions. Although some people stated they would not like to see any more businesses in Berkeley, most respondents would like to see more businesses offering services and goods for local people. Other specific ideas and concerns raised are the need for more respect for personal initiative; a bank in South Berkeley; more cottage industries; development of clean, renewable energy technologies; lower taxes; a downtown that is attractive to the region; an outdoor mall on Telegraph Avenue; and safe and clean commercial areas.

City Administration

There was a tremendous amount of comment on the City administration, both positive and negative. Like transportation, housing, the provision of social services, and the University, there is division on this issue. Many items listed as assets for the City were listed by others as liabilities. Assets included the progressive politics; the opportunities to try innovative programs; the long-standing, socially-responsible vision; public hearings; the great number of boards and commissions; the easy access to elected officials; the role as precedent setter (e.g., recycling, toxic waste, Indigenous People's Day); district representation; the willingness to oppose destructive processes (e.g., speculation, highways); the international climate and cosmopolitan worldview; the strong, cross-class citizen activism and involvement; the provision of an unusual amount of service to its residents; the acceptance of different values and goals and the sense of freedom and well-being this city exudes; the ability of City government to address the community's issues; handicapped awareness in public areas and facilities; and the commitment to fighting racism and its effects.

The liabilities of City government drew an even greater range of response. The responses fall into three general categories:

- politics;
- administration; and,
- policies.

Some people feel that too much of what is done is politically motivated, that government is polarized and paralyzed by "politically-correct" politics; that there is political ambivalence in representing the interests of all citizens—including business and property owners; that there is fragmentation as a result of self-protecting political moves; that there are too many commissions

with axes to grind and there is weak political leadership; that there is too much attention to national and international issues; and that there is a bad reputation for crazy local politics.

Regarding the administration of City government, people remark that there is a lack of communication within and between departments; chaos in City government; unhappiness with the City Manager form of government; a bloated bureaucracy; overstaffing and poor monitoring of City employees; a need to stick to basics and look closely at the cost-effectiveness of programs and groups funded; a lack of vision, goals, and mission; too much money spent on City administrators and consultants; a lack of cooperative problem solving; a lack of money due to the budget crisis to fund programs; and there are too many rules and regulations that preclude businesses and investors from establishing themselves in Berkeley.

Specific events, policies, and issues also brought forth comments: the University refusing to accommodate the City's zoning laws; a few people affecting the policy of the City, e.g., People's Park demonstrators; failure to deal firmly with problem areas; pressure from special interests on City government to pay attention to issues it should not be involved in; too much public participation; lack of strong leadership and public information on social, economic and environmental issues, locally and regionally; failure to include minority communities in identifying, planning, and implementing funding that would improve and expand the ability to better serve families with children; lack of involvement of minority communities in City government; and the overwhelming burden and bureaucracy placed on businesses, property owners and developers.

Beyond what were explicitly presented as liabilities are issues about the City people want to see remedied. These issues fit into three gweneral categories:

- fiscal priorities and the funding of social services;
- City staff, sensitivity to community groups, and program administration; and,
- politics and leadership.

City funding of social service organizations needs to be re-examined. Contracts for funds need to last more than one year, and City money needs to be distributed in such a way as to encourage collaboration among community service providers, rather than competition. Collaboration and sharing of resources would allow for more client service and less administrative cost.

Some respondents said the City's staff needs to be more accountable. Programs should undergo cost benefit analyses and operations should be streamlined. Staff should have collaborative working skills and knowledge of mediation. It would also help if there were more minority and disabled employees, as well as bilingual employees. The City lacks knowledge of how to deal with certain cultural and ethnic groups and loses the effectiveness of response in a maze of bureaucracy. The City is inconsistent in many ways, for example, supporting social services and then interpreting fire regulations more conservatively than any other local government. Priorities in spending need to be examined—some respondents feel the money spent on People's Park would have been better spent on education or improving the economic situation. Program administration is also too loose, inconsistent, and ineffective. Zoning regulations are too cumbersome; fees and assessments are excessive.

The City Council is seen by some as afraid to deal with problems. The City needs to streamline the boards and commissions—look at their purposes. Boards and commissions take a lot of staff time and most meetings are not well attended. Conflict resolution is a big issue—people are so

divided it is very difficult to figure out and accept what is the best for everyone. Most people feel any attempt to be heard is futile. There is no trust among officials, elected or otherwise, and no trust from the public. Diversity is a strength and a weakness—lots of public participation attempts to accommodate diversity, but it bogs down when so many are involved in any one decision. In spite of Berkeley's reputation as a liberal, visionary, and innovative City, some argue that it is actually quite conservative and finds change difficult.

The visions that people have of the City government for the future again fall into three categories:

- politics and leadership;
- administrative and fiscal responsibility; and,
- policies and programs.

Regarding politics and leadership, the majority of respondents made comments that indicate a desire to see less emphasis on politics and more on governing and a return to City government that responds to the real needs of its citizens instead of political expression for its own sake. Respondents' vision for the future included everything from seeing an end to the radical left to seeing Berkeley lead the nation in converting to non-military industry. Many others see a more moderate vision that includes the City taking a leadership role in helping to guide regional development in ways that are sensitive both to the environment and to the social and economic needs of all who live here and a streamlined political process that people can view as a positive experience rather than a merry-go-round.

In the area of administrative and fiscal responsibility, there is consensus among the respondents on the need for a more responsive, lean, and flexible mode of operation. Some specific ideas are as follows: priorities should be established for spending; tax money should be used more wisely; City staff should be reduced; social programming and services should be linked creatively, to maximize effective use of limited resources; the budget should be understandable without a degree in accounting; most City services should be contracted out as a means of maximizing revenues; the City's principal role should be to initiate, bring together, and coordinate the overall plan for public services; government should provide the necessary services and otherwise not control the lives of the people.

Some specific comments were made that fall into the area of policies and programs. Some people call for an emphasis on public works, fire, police, libraries, and education; the establishment of a balance of priorities in light of limited resources; and the development of a public arts program with adequate funding.

There were many general comments on the role of local government. The theme of cooperation and collaboration came up in this area as well. Cooperative problem solving with community groups and regional agencies and governments, collaboration with the University and local businesses were all mentioned as means of better addressing issues and maximizing resources. There was some call for the government to acknowledge its part in creating the problems that need to be dealt with in order to avoid duplicating the same problems in the future. Local needs should be paramount, models should be developed for problem solving, and larger problems should be addressed regionally or at the state or federal levels.

Local government should be action-oriented and have results-oriented policies. Bureaucracy should be minimized and barriers to change eliminated. The local government should set examples by employing fair hiring practices, using only recycled materials, and hiring disabled and minority candidates for high profile positions. Local government should primarily be responsible for preventing crime, supporting a vibrant business community, educating our children, and providing recreational facilities for all citizens. Local government should try to take positions that represent the majority of its citizens. Drastic state and federal budget cuts should not mean drastic city budget cuts, but creative financial planning by City officials in collaboration with a ready-made think tank at UC Berkeley.

Change

In the view of many respondents, the quality of life is eroding. There is economic and social deterioration, a perceived loss of racial and class diversity, and eroding social services. Respondents view Berkeley's image as more negative than positive and many people look to the past for what they would like to see now. People from both ends of the conservative/liberal spectrum would like to see Berkeley return to their version of the "good old days"; change in our current times is viewed suspiciously and negatively. Some point to a refusal of many to accept change, to a tendency toward self-protectionism which is detrimental to the City as a whole. Some say "NIMBYism" ("not in my backyard") and a growing conservatism make change painful and difficult.

The demographics of Berkeley are changing. Whites are a minority in the public schools, and racial diversity is decreasing as more and more white children are being placed in private schools. There are increasing numbers of elderly; many elderly will need assistance. More white people are moving in and more minority people need to commute from outlying areas to jobs that are low paying. This heightens class conflicts and racial tensions.

Environmental Quality

The environment is of concern to many respondents. People are concerned about all the various forms of pollution and their regulation and would like to see movement towards more ecologically sound policies and procedures. The differences of opinion arise on how deeply the local government should be involved in this and where the money should come from. This is in contrast to the specific area of disaster preparedness, where all who mentioned it assume in their comments that the City is fully responsible for education and preparation.

Disaster Preparedness

Though a few cited Berkeley's disaster planning and fire response as assets, there were also a few who were concerned about the City's state of disaster preparedness, emergency communication capabilities, and lack of more fire prevention measures in the hills. Earthquake planning and seismic retrofitting of public buildings (especially schools) were also of concern.

Environment

Many people expressed concern for air and water quality, and specifically talked about the problems of industry in West Berkeley. The businesses should be well-regulated, with strict guidelines and enforcement; less polluting industries should be encouraged and there should be

a plan or policies for dealing with existing factories and their pollution. Respondents also do not want the City to build an anti-business attitude.

People are calling for more recycling efforts—Berkeley has fallen behind the times in this area—and for solid waste source reduction along with a lot of community education. City government should set an example for the community in use of recycled products and should provide environmentally sensitive decisions and policies. There need to be toxic waste reduction programs, and City sites need to be cleaned up. Public and private ecological landscaping should be promoted; lawns are not good and should be discouraged through education. Habitat restoration, debris removal, preservation of open space and creeks should all be on the City's agenda.

In the future, people would like to see a City that is environmentally active, that has innovated along environmental lines, that has provided enough alternatives to practically eliminate cars, that is socially and environmentally a leader in preserving human and natural resources and providing growth opportunities for all. There is some call for more green space—wildlife corridors, "greenways", walking paths, and more and bigger parks.

The role of local government should be active, promoting education and environmentally sustainable businesses, encouraging all kinds of recycling, leading the citizens and businesses toward a zero polluting and zero waste way of life. Local government should work with community groups to create a vision and goals for a truly healthy future; the empty buildings (especially school buildings and office buildings downtown) should be put to use instead of letting them rot, and there should be focus on pollution prevention.

Regional Links

Cooperation and collaboration constantly arose in people's comments as a theme for our future. This includes a vision of cooperative and collaborative relationships among the Bay Area governments, the regional agencies, and the state and federal governments.

Regional Relations

Respondents feel that the City is too insulated—there is too little connection and cooperation with surrounding communities and poor interagency communication. Some specific concerns include building a cooperative response to some of the overwhelming social ills of our time and enabling collaborative working relationships to eliminate redundancies and make delivery of services more effective. The City cannot address most issues alone; many problems do not coincide with City boundaries. Solutions, programs, and funding need to be generated on a regional level with each community paying its fair share. Regional transit needs to be improved. Coordination among the various transit systems, shorter wait times, and more efficient linkages need to be made. Light rail needs to be explored on a regional basis. Planning should also be done on a regional basis. We are a small piece of the Bay Area and need to be part of planning for the region, rather than just reacting.

City/University Relations

There is a great diversity of opinions on the University of California at Berkeley. Many people see the University as a strength—drawing people from all over the world, stimulating the local economy, and providing a vital intellectual and cultural environment. However, many people,

including some who described the University as a strength, also described it as a liability. The antagonism and lack of connection among the University, the community, and City administration; the problems with People's Park; UC's growth and refusal to accommodate the City's zoning laws; and the lack of a requirement for reimbursement of the City by UC for City services are all cited as liabilities.

Some people would like to see the end of animal experimentation; most would like to see the University as a positive resource for the community, an active and cooperative presence that facilitates joint University, City, and private efforts to benefit the community and attract new businesses. People would like to see the University more responsive to City policies and willing to provide additional compensation for City services. Some also mentioned that the City should have been more responsive in trying to keep UC's Office of the President in Berkeley.

Some respondents would like the University to be more responsive to the City specifically by accommodating the City's Zoning Ordinance, allowing for some control over University growth; many people would like the University to make its development intentions clear. The City needs to confront the University about all the new buildings in process or in the planning stages; many people feel the University is taking over the City and has no regard for neighborhood fabric or community well-being. Traffic problems which are viewed as University-related are also an issue. The University needs to work with the City to provide local housing and jobs and reduce the commute needs of its employees and students.

The way the University planning process is constructed, the EIR process tends to become the battleground for the City and the University because that is where the University invites public comment. The EIR process potentially could become part of a cooperative planning relationship.

General Plan

In general, respondents would like to see this General Plan effort result in a document that is responsive to community needs, is realistic in its goals, and provides means for measuring progress and results. Respondents were pleased with the Area Plans, but feel there are problems with implementing them. A few respondents do not think that any of the social and environmental issues have any place at all in the General Plan, and would like to see the City stick to the presumably achievable and the mandated—physical planning issues which are in the power of the local government to resolve. There are several specific issues other people feel the General Plan should address: coordinating effort and resources among the City, the School District, and the University; providing childcare and youth and family services in general; developing job training and other specific economic development measures; and providing plans for preserving what is good about the neighborhoods and also for addressing specific commercial corridors, like University Avenue. Some would also like to see provision for the arts, noting that the arts are key to improving the quality of life and can help to create a vibrant community.

Looking at Berkeley as a whole, there are several issues people would like to see addressed: the issue of sustainability—how Berkeley will preserve resources for quality of life in the future; the interrelatedness of service provision and businesses—promoting a "global" view of the City; and a holistic view of the City that includes sensitivity to historical areas and buildings. There are a few respondents who see the General Plan primarily as a vehicle for disarming those who are anti-change, and for setting up dialogues which allow people to respect one another. Others are more cautionary in their approach, mentioning the lack of implementation of past plans and

the need to find agreement for a fundamental vision for the City. There should be plenty of opportunities for public participation and the consensus building efforts of the past need to be respected in the process. The University and the School District should be invited into the planning process. Most respondents concur on the need for a current planning and policy document to lead Berkeley into the future.

Conclusion

The issues on which our community is most divided are housing, transportation, the provision of social services, and City/University relations. Those who question the priority given the social services do so primarily because they perceive that other, more basic City services are suffering in the process, rather than out of opposition to the social services per se. Even those who wish to see more and better social services would like to see cleaner streets and well-maintained City infrastructure. There is a clear consensus on several issues: the need to attend to basic City services, the need for a more efficient and more accountable City government, the need to improve our public schools, the need to reduce crime, the need to establish and implement an effective economic development policy, and the need for better regional relationships. Several themes run throughout all of the comments. The need for cooperation and collaboration on all levels, the need continually to seek common ground while recognizing and respecting diversity, the need for community building, the need for more flexibility and responsiveness in the delivery of all services, and the need for greater fiscal responsibility.

Community Groups and Social Service Providers Interviewed

Adelante - Silvia Calderon

Affordable Housing:

South Berkeley Housing Deve. Corporation - Chuck Robinson

West Berkeley Neighborhood Deve. Corporation - Rev. Marvis Peoples

Resources for Community Development - Liz Schiller

African American Men United For Change - Joseph Howerton, J.D.

Asians For Job Opportunities In Berkeley - Dr. Tony Leong

Berkeley Dispute Resolution - Laura Bressler

Berkeley Mental Health - Fred Madrano

Berkeley Design Advocates - David Stoloff

Lavoneia C. Steele, ED. D. - Superintendent

Anton Jungherr - Associate Superintendent, Business Services

W.S. Eckels - Manager, Personnel Services

Chamber Of Congress - Dennis Cohen and Rachel Rupert

Child Care Programs:

Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement - Beatriz Leyva-Cutler

Berkeley Albany Licensed Day Care Operators - Etta Rose

Ephesian Children's Center - Newt McDonald

Nia House Learning Center - Lee Wagner

St. John's Child Care Program - Kate Nichols

Early Childhood Education - Rebecca Wheat

Bananas, Inc. - Wilma Jordan

Berkeley Head Start - (did not attend)

Coalition of University Neighbors - Lesley Jones

Community Groups:

Adeline Ashby Merchants Association - Shirley Mitts

San Pablo University Merchants Association - Ethel Gomez

Council of Neighborhood Associations

John Denton, Patrick Devaney, Sharon Entwistle

Creek Restoration:

Urban Creeks Council - John Steere

East Bay Citizens For Creek Restoration (same)

Dorothy Walker

Downtown Business Association - Jeff Leiter

Emergency Services/Disabled Programs:

Center for Independent Living - Michael Winter

Jobs for Homeless Consortium - Michael Daniels

Emergency Services Disabled Programs:

Berkeley Community Health Project- Jon L.

Berkeley Place - Leslie Pinson and Marshua Jackson

Berkeley Primary Care Access Clinic - Kathy Ward

Center for Independent Living (did not attend)

Family Violence Law Center - Victoria Edwards

Vantastic - Patricia Lawrence and Vicki Riggin

Food And Nutrition Programs Housing/Homeless Services:

Berkeley Emergency Food Project - Wendy George

South Berkeley Community Church - George McDaniel, Ed Setchko, Clara Mills-Williams

Berkeley Oakland Support Services - Robert Barrer

Housing Rights, Inc. (did not attend)

Bonita House - Rick Crispino

Women's Refuge - (did not attend)

Coalition for Alternatives in Mental Health (did not attend)

Tenants Action Project - Hank Henson

Berkeley Mental Health - Taj Johns

Job Training Programs:

Berkeley Adult School - Janice Schroeder and Susan Kraemer

Veterans Assistance Center - Allan Hill

Bay Area Urban League - John Flaherty

Inter City Services - (did not attend)

League Of Women Voters:

Phyllis Clement, Marium Hawley

Loan Administration Board - Mike Mabee

Manufacturing Association:

Peerless Lighting .- Dick Kraber,

North Shattuck Ave. Merchants:

Martin Aston - Brother's Bagels

Property Owners:

The Black Property Owners Association - Jim Smith

Berkeley Property Owners - Albert Sukoff and Leon Mayeri

Berkeley Association of Realtors - Anita Thede and Bill Porter

Pta Council - Randy Perrin, Joan Collignon, Margot Wallace

Staff Planning Group - Arrieta Chakos

Senior Programs:

Over 60 Health Center - Marty Lynch

Japanese American Services of the East Bay - Laura Takeuchi

Berkeley Gray Panthers - Lillian Rabinowitz

Tenants:

Housing Rights - Marianne Lawless

Berkeley Tenants Union - Jeff Jordan

Berkeley Rent Board - Randy Silverman

East Bay Tenants Bar (did not attend)

University Of California, Berkeley Campus Planning:

Iohn Keilch

David Stoloff

University Avenue Association:

Ellen Lasher

Patrick Au

Manjul Batra

Marion White

Richard Graham

Rose Raspberry

West Berkeley Merchants:

Merchants/Artists West Berkeley - Mr. Laurie Bright

Berkeley Architectural Heritage - Susan Cerny

Women's Employment Resources Corporation - Carole Lewis

Youth Services:

Ala Costa Center - Vicki Milton
Berkeley Asian Youth Center (did not attend)
Berkeley Youth Alternatives - Nikki Williams
Break the Cycle (did not attend)
Home and School Environments for Learning (did not attend)
New Perspectives - Serena Jones
Urban Ecology - Steven Wheeler and Gary Farber

Mailing List for the Community Assessment Questionnaire

City Council, Boards, And Commissions

All members of the City Council and every City board and commission were sent a questionnaire. Because of the timing of the mailing after the November 1992 election, members whose terms have since been completed received the questionnaire as well as all of the newly elected or appointed members.

Civic Organizations

ACLU

Adelante

AIOB

Ala Costa Center

All Nations Church of Christ

All Souls Episcopal Church

Alta Bates Mental Health

American Red Cross

Association of Retarded Citizens

B.A. Outreach Recreation Program

Berkeley Unified School District

BA Hispano Institute of Advancement

Bananas, Inc.

Bancroft Garden Coalition

Bay Area Urban League

Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Berkeley Women's Health Collective

Berkeley Methodist United Church

Berkeley Emergncy Food Project

Berkeley Primary Care Access Clinic

Berkeley Property Owners Association

Berkeley Black Pastors Association

Berkeley Youth Alternatives

Berkeley Fellowships Unitarian

Berkeley Higashi Honganji

Berkeley Architectural Heritage

Berkeley Board of Realtors

Berkeley Dispute Resolution

Berkeley Asian Youth Center

Berkeley Community Health Project

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce

Berkeley Community Chorus/Orchestra

Berkeley-Albany Day Care Operators

Berkeley-Oakland Support Services

Berkeley Library

Berkeley Arts Center

Berkeley Library

Berkeley Dental Society

Berkeley Albany YMCA

Berkeley Addiction Clinic

Berkeley Library

Berkeley Library

Berkeley Adult School

Berkeley Taxpayers Association

Berkeley Post Office

Berkeley Head Start

Berkeley Mental Health

Berkeley Energy Management

Berkeley Place

Berkeley Gray Panthers

Berkeley Black Council

Berkeley Boosters Association

Bethlehem Temple

Bible Way Church of God

Black Aces

Black Repertory Group

Black Caucus

Black Property Owners Association

Bonita House

BPD

BPOA

Break the Cycle

Business and Professional Women

CAC

California Alumni Association

Campus Planning

Christ Chapel

Christian Layman Church

Church by Side of Road

Citizens for Eastshore State Park

Citizens for Better Environment

Citizens of Berkeley

Citizens Area Commission

Citizens Opposing Pollution

Coalition for Alternatives in Mental Health

Community Services United of Berkeley

Community Affairs/UCB

COPE

Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Center for Independent Living

Divine Healing Holiness

Early Childhood Education

Earth Action Network

Earth Regeneration Society

East Bay Women for Peace

Ebenezer Baptist Church

ECHO Housing

Ecology Center

Elders Network

Elmwood Institute

Emergency Services Network

Environmental Health & Safety

Ephesian Church

Ephesian Children's Center

Family Violence Law Center

Fire Fighters Association #1227

Food Not Bombs

Friends of Aquatic Park

Gateway TMA

General Assembly Church of Berkeley

Grace Baptist Church

Grassroots House

Harriet Tubman Tenants

Home & School

Housing Development

Housing Rights, Inc.

Inter-City Services

Japanese American Services

Jehovah's Witnesses

Jewish Community Center

KPFA FM 94

League of Environmental Voters

League of Women Voters

Liberty Hill Baptist

Liberty Hills Church

Lily of Valley Baptist

Local Solutions to Global Pollution

Longfellow School

Malcolm X School

McGee Baptist Church

Mediation Services

Mt. Zion Church of God

Mt. Zion M.B.C.

NAACP

National Housing Law Project

New Bridge Foundation

New Perspectives

New St. Mark Church

Newman Hall

Nia House Learning Center

North Berkeley Senior Center

Northbrae Community Church

Nut Hill Association

Over 60 Health Center

PAC

Pacific Center for Human Growth

Peace & Harmony Baptist

Phillip CME Church

PLUC

Progressive Christian Day Care

Progressive Baptist

Project Excellence

Project SEED

Residence Hall Assembly

Resources for Community Development

Salvation Army

San Pablo Recreation

Save San Francisco Bay Association

SBNDC, Chair

Shared Living Resources Center

Sick Child Care Program

Sierra Club

Sisters of Presentation

South Berkeley Against Redevelopment

South Berkeley Women's Health Center

South Berkeley YMCA Resource Center

South Berkeley Dispos. Dev.

South Berkeley Community Church

South Berkeley Senior Center

Supervisor Warren Widener

St. Joseph the Worker

St. Mary Magdalene

St. John's Orthodox

St. Marks Episcopal

St. Paul African M.E.C.

St. John's Child Care

Temple Mongkolratanaram

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth Israel

Tenants Action Project

The Word

Transportation Services UCB

TRIP

U.A. Housing, Inc.

Univ. YMCA Stiles Hall

University of California

University YWCA

University Lutheran
Urban Care
Vantastic
Veterans Assistance Center
Veterans Assistance Center
Vicente Cyn Hllsd Foundation
West Berkeley Health Center
Women's Refuge
Women's Employment Resource
World Without War Council
Worldwide Farmers Exchange
YMCA New Light Senior Center
Zion Tabernacle
Zonta Club of Berkeley
& Cultural Resources

Merchant Organizations

Adeline/Alcatraz Merchants
Adeline/Ashby Merchants
Downtown Berkeley Association
Dwight/Shattuck Merchants
Merchants/Artists West Berkeley
No. Shattuck Merchants
Telegraph Ave. Merchants
University Ave. Merchants Association
Urban Alternatives
Urban Ecology
Elmwood Merchants Association

Neighborhood Organizations

5th St./Camelia Association 5th-Univ.-Dwight Association 62nd St. Neighborhood Association 67th St. Neighborhood Association Addison-Acton Neighborhood. Alcatraz Neighborhood Association **BART View Neighborhood Association** Bateman Neighborhood Association Berkeley Hills Neighbors Berkeley Way Park Association Bonita Ave. Association **Bryant Tract Association** Carleton Neighborhood Association Carlotta Ave. Association Cedar St. Neighborhood Association Cedar St. Association Channing/Bonar Association

Clare/Elmwood Neighborhood Association

Claremt/Elmwood Neighborhood

Council of Neighborhood Associations.

Council. of Neighborhood Associations.

Columbus School Neighborhood.

Council of Neighborhood Association

Cragmont Preservation Association

Curtis St. Group

Daley's Park Neighborhood Association

Daly's Scene Park Association

Delaware/California Association

Dwight/Hillside Association

Dwight-Hillside Association

Dwight-Shattuck Association

Edith Street Association

El Dorado Neighborhood Association

Ellis St. Neighborhood Association

Elmwood. Neighbors Association

Fairview/Harmon St Association

Fairview Neighborhood Association

Fairview Neighborhood Association

Flatlands Neighborhood Association

Florida/Santa Barbara Association

Franklin School Association

Grove Park Neighbors

Halcyon Neighborhood . Association

Harmon Street Association

Hearst/Curtis Neighborhood.

Josephine Street Association

Kains-Harrison Association

King & Tyler St. Association

LeConte Neighborhood Association

McKinley/Addison/Grant

McKinley/Addison/Grant

Monkey Island Park

Monterey Ave. Association

Neighbors on Stuart Street

Neighbors for Clean Air

Newberry Neighborhood . Association

Newbury Neighborhood Association

No. Etna Neighborhood Association

No. Berk. Neighborhood Association

Northeast Berkeley Association

Oaktops Homeowners Association

Oceanview Tenants Association

Oceanview. Residents Committee

Olympus St. Neighborhood Association

Oregon St. Neighborhood Association

Otis St. Neighborhood Association

Otis-Russell Neighborhood Association

Panoramic Hill/Plan

Panoramic Hill Association

Park Hills Homes Association

Parker Street Coop

Parker Association

Parker-McGee Association

Parker-McGee Association

Parker-Milvia Association

Potter Creek Neighbors

Ratzlesnatch Coop

Rose-King Neighborhood

Southside Community Coalition

San Antonio Homowner's

San Pablo Neighborhood Cncl

San Pablo Park Association

Savo Island Co-op Homes

South Deakin Association

South Berkeley Planning Body

Spaulding South . Association

Santa Barbara Road Association

Sterling Preservation Association

SUDS Neighborhood Organization

Summit Rd. Neighborhood Watch

Telegraph Ave. Residents

Terrace View Association

Thousand Oaks Association

Tyler St. Neighborhood Association

Tyler-California/King Association

University Gardens Association

University Ave. Coop Homes

Upper Hillcrest Rd Association

West Berkeley Neighborhood Council

W.O.R.C.

Warring Street Association

West Campus Neighborhood Association

Westbrae Neighborhood Association

Willard Neighborhood Association

Williard Neighborhood Association

Woolsey/Harper Association

Woolsey Neighborhood Association

Woolsey-Wheeler Association



Loni Hancock
MAYOR

January 8, 1993

The City of Berkeley is beginning the process of updating its General Plan --a blueprint for the future of the city. This is the first General Plan update in almost 15 years.

A General Plan defines a collective vision of how the city should change in the foreseeable future, prompts an assessment of values, and requires making policy choices on several levels. Although the plan primarily addresses the City's physical development, fundamental decisions must be made about social, economic and environmental issues. As such, it has an impact on practically every aspect of living and working in Berkeley.

As we begin, the City Council and Planning Commission want to gain a sense of the major issues for the Berkeley community in order to design the best and most helpful public participation process. We are contacting Boards and Commissions, community groups and social service providers, to find out what you like about Berkeley, what you don't like about Berkeley, what you would like to see changed, how you would like to see it changed, and how you see Berkeley in the next 10-15 years.

A number of opportunities will be available for you to be involved in the General Plan update. The first of these is this questionnaire. No postage is required, simply use the enclosed stamped envelope and mail it back by January 22, 1993. Please take the time to be one of those who influences the direction of the City.

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire, please feel free to call Laura Lafler or Karen Haney-Owens in the City Planning Department at 644-6534.

Thank you in advance for your time and energy. The community's involvement is crucial to planning for Berkeley's future.

All our best,

Loni Hancock

Mayor

Babette Jee

Chair, Planning Commission

cc: Gil Kelley, Planning Director

-oni Hancock

Community Assessment

January 8, 1993

Questionnaire

The City of Berkeley is beginning a revision of the City's General Plan. As a member of a City Board or Commission, community group or social service provider, we need your input to gain a preliminary sense of the community's values and specific needs in looking at the future of Berkeley. We will use your response to design the public participation program for the planning process. This questionnaire is being sent to all Boards and Commissions, community groups and social service providers throughout the City of Berkeley. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope by January 22, 1993.

	se indicate the Board, Commission, community group or social service provider iated with and how else you participate in the civic life of the Berkeley commun
Hov	v long have have you been with your group, Board or Commission?
Wha	at do you see as Berkeley's major assets (strong points)? Please list 2 or 3.
Wha	at do you see as Berkeley's major liabilities (weak points)? Please list 2 or 3.
Wha	at do you think are the most pressing issues in Berkeley? Please list 2 or 3.
Loo	king ahead 10-15 years what is your vision for the future of Berkeley?
	at do you think the role of local government should be in addressing social and ironmental problems?

8.	Facilities/Services A General Plan addresses a range of issues. Listed below are some typical facilities/services issues and topics that might be discussed in the General Plan. Please rank in terms of priority your top 5 facilities/services issues (number #1-#5):						
	a schools b child care and preschools c programs for youth d police protection e fire and emergency response f housing g recreation centers and programs h public libraries	j public beautification k public sanitation l homeless campground m recycling facilities n senior centers o medical facilities p social service network other					
9.		l issues and topics that might be discussed in the y your top 5 environmental issues (number #1-#5): h preservation of open space i residential densities j services near residences k improving the transportation system l noise m. other					
10.		nic issues and topics that might be discussed in the y your top 5 social/economic issues (number #1-#5): g support services for families h drug treatment i mental health treatment centers j crime k affordable housing l. other					

11. Are there other topics you feel should be addressed in the General Plan update which were not included above? Please discuss briefly.



U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES

